GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:165
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2004
NEW NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY
Choudhary Shri Nikhil Kumar;Shakya Shri Raghuraj Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has issued a draft report on New National Environment Policy;

(b) If so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether some States including Uttar Pradesh have raised certain objections on the issue;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether proper attention and care has been taken for Scheduled Tribes under the new policy;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the `National Environment Policy` effectively?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.165 FOR 13.12.2004 REGARDING NEW NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT POLICY RAISED BY SHRI NIKHIL KUMAR CHOUDHARY AND SHRI RAGHURAJ SINGH SHAKYA.

(a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) has prepared a draft `National Environment Policy` (NEP) and made it publicly available for comments in August,2004.

(b) The draft NEP is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the state`s responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. The NEP is also intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities. It briefly describes key environment challenges currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indications of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review.

(c)&(d) Responses on the draft NEP, both written and oral, have been received from several States including Uttar Pradesh. These are in the nature of suggestions and comments. The MoEF has had consultations with various stakeholders which include State Governments, Ministries of Central Government, Industry Associations, Voluntary Organizations, Research institutions etc., and would give due consideration to the comments/suggestions received while finalizing the NEP.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) Some of the important measures envisaged in the draft policy for the benefit of local/tribal communities are as under:

```
# Legal recognition of the traditional community rights of the forest dwelling tribes;


# Promotion of site specific eco-development programmes in fringe areas of Protected
 Areas (PAs) to restore livelihoods and access to forest produce;


# Formulation and adoption of an internationally recognized system of legally
 enforceable sui-generis intellectual property rights for ethno-biology knowledge,
 for the benefits of local communities;
```

Multistakeholder partnerships for enhancing the forest cover of the country, and

Multistakeholder partnerships for restoring degraded wildlife habitats and promotion of eco-tourism with involvement of forest communities.

(g) Steps to implement the NEP will be taken only after it is finalized. The Draft NEP provides for annual review of implementation of the policy by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), and review and revision of the policy every three years.